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RUEHKH/AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY 0270  
RUEHCP/AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY 1569  
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RUEHYN/AMEMBASSY SANAA PRIORITY 0220  
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY 0426  
RUEHAD/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY 0247  
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 2269  
RUEHSM/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY 1632  
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TAGS: [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [KCRM](#) [SO](#) [BG](#) [FR](#)  
SUBJECT: AL-SHABAAB: FRANCE OPEN TO SANCTIONS BUT NEEDS TO  
STUDY ISSUE

REF: STATE 61215

Classified By: Political Minister-Counselor Josiah Rosenblatt,  
1.4 (b/d).

¶1. (S) MFA Somalia Desk Officer Thierry Caboche on June 10 said, in response to reftel, that France would study further our case for imposing UN sanctions on the al-Shabaab organization based in Somalia. (NOTE: DAS-equivalent Helene Le Gal our normal interlocutor on such an issue, is out of town. END NOTE) Caboche said that France was very much concerned about al-Shabaab, which he described as an uncooperative party pertaining to regional peace and stability issues. "This is not an organization we like at all," he remarked.

¶2. (S) However, Caboche said that there were problem issues that needed to be resolved. First, he said, while some of al-Shabaab's leadership might have connections with al-Qaida, it was not clear to France that the organization itself was working with al-Qaida or other known terrorist groups. He added that al-Shabaab seemed to engage in acts bordering on terrorism, but that it may not have engaged in what is commonly recognized as "terrorism" in the context of UN sanctions. Second, al-Shabaab seemed to operate only in Somalia, and therefore was perhaps not, strictly speaking, an "international" entity against which UNSCR 1267 sanctions might be appropriate.

¶3. (S) Caboche said he raised these issues not because he had any sympathy for al-Shabaab but rather because they were the types of issues that would need to be resolved at the UN during the process of including al-Shabaab in the sanctions list. He conceded that the points he raised were fine ones, and he indicated that he and his colleagues would examine the issue starting from a pro-sanctions posture. "We are open to sanctions but must make sure that all questions and small details are addressed as we move to include them in the sanctions list," he noted. He said he would discuss the issue further with the MFA's IO and Terrorism experts and would try to follow-up with a timely response.

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